



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

2005 Summer Seminar Series 8

Tues. Aug 30, 2005

Gender and Conflict in Africa: Research Presentation on Best Practices, Resources, and Lessons Learned

Session Organizer: **Afia Zakiya, Africa Gender
Advisor, USAID/AFR/DP/POSE**

<http://www.usaid.gov/> Keyword: Summer Seminars



SPEAKERS

- **Afia Zakiya**, Africa Gender Advisor,
USAID/AFR/DP/POSE
- **Jackie Vavra**, Project Associate,
Management Systems International
- **Alice Morton**, Consultant, Management
Systems International



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

GENDER AND CONFLICT IN AFRICA

Project sponsored by USAID/Africa Bureau
under the direction of
Afia Zakiya, AFR Gender Advisor

AUGUST 30, 2005



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Gender and Conflict in Africa: Research Presentation on Best Practices, Resources, and Lessons Learned

Presented by:

Alice Morton and Jackie Vavra

Management Systems International



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Conflict in Africa—the effects

- More than 50 percent of the world's active violent internal and regional conflicts are in Africa
- Over 300,000 child soldiers conscripted
- Over 30 million people displaced from their homes
- More than 1 million deaths
- Economic and social infrastructure destroyed
- Damaged environment
- Weakened institutions of government



War and conflict affects women, men, girls, and boys

- Both women and men struggle to identify and consolidate new identities and roles in post-conflict settings, which often involve resources and power relations
- Children of both sexes are also affected, usually negatively



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Gender refers to

- A system of roles and relationships between males and females that is determined not by biology but by socio-cultural, political, and economic contexts
- The “process by which individuals who are born into biological categories of male and female become the social categories of men and women through the acquisition of locally defined attributes of manhood/masculinity and womanhood/femininity”



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



In Africa, traditional “transformative rites” and other rituals from childhood to eldership have particular relevance; they shape the full range of changing patterns of social interactions, power relations, privileges, status and identities formed over time, usually based on age grouping, where gender may not serve as the primary organizing principle.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

A gendered approach

- A **gendered approach** attempts to heighten awareness of the particular and changed circumstances that war and conflict create for the **construction and reconstruction of gendered roles** in a society



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

How conflict affects women

- Women take on non-traditional roles
- Increased violence against women and girls
- Female soldiers are often unrecognized
- Women have specific health issues
- Programming often overlooks women

Women's expanding public roles

- Women play a pivotal role in promoting peace and dialogue at regional, national, and local levels





USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Incorporating indigenous knowledge

- **Local knowledge**
 - unique to every culture or society
 - the basis for local-level decision-making
 - embedded in community practices, institutions, relationships, and rituals
- **Key to conflict prevention and resolution**
 - In central Africa, performance served as a reminder to the community of their traditional cultural coping mechanisms and techniques for healing and reconciliation



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Sectors addressed

- Security and protection
- DDR
- Health, including HIV/AIDS and psychosocial issues
- Education, training, and capacity building
- Livelihoods
- Rebuilding infrastructure
- Democracy, governance, and human rights
 - Engaging in peace processes, elections, media, land rights, legal reform, advocacy



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR AFRICA



USAID Africa Bureau's new Strategic Framework

- Supports US government foreign policy goals in Africa as articulated in the National Security Strategy (2002), the State-USAID Joint Strategic Plan, and the Fragile States Strategy
- Aligns programs with the White Paper, *U.S. Foreign Aid: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-first Century* (March 2004)
- Follows these guiding principles and programmatic approaches
 - For Africa, the framework makes a key distinction between transformational development countries (TD) and fragile countries or states (FS)

USAID Africa Bureau's new Strategic Framework, continued

- The Framework represents a new way of thinking about development and programming in Africa
- Annual adjustments are anticipated over the next several years as experience grows

USAID Africa Bureau's new Strategic Framework, continued

- Fragile states have poorer developmental prospects
- FS governments cannot provide basic services and security to large segments of the population
 - conflicts or crises hamper the state's ability to provide services
 - an environment conducive to growth is lacking

USAID Africa Bureau's new Strategic Framework, continued

- For TD and FS countries, the Framework offers opportunities to
 - Correct and refine program directions
 - Reflect USAID's awareness of the need to program differently in fragile states
 - Allow for gender-sensitive programming and activity development across sectors
 - Focus programs for greater impact
 - Align program and management resources with goals



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

FRAGILE STATES

Fragile States: Vision



Increasing political, economic and social stability supports non-violent resolution of conflict, enhances democratic practice and equitable economic recovery in Sub-Saharan African countries vulnerable to, in and emerging from crisis.

Agency Framework for Africa

<i>Robust...</i>	PROGRAMS	POLICIES	MANAGEMENT
<i>In support of...</i>			
Foreign Policy	Avert and resolve conflict <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advance peace processes• Reinforce African conflict mitigation and management capacity• Enhance protection of individuals from physical violence Manage crisis and promote stability, recovery, and democratic reform <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reintegration of persons affected by conflict• Increase access to essential services provided by local and national institutions• Advance inclusive governance• Restore/maintain basic economic activity and livelihoods		
USAID-State Plan			
White Paper			
Fragile States Strategy			
AFRICAN OBJECTIVES			

Goal One: Avert and Resolve Conflict

1 Advance peace processes

- Mobilize constituencies for peace
- Negotiation of peace agreements
- Peace implementation planning and monitoring

Goal One: Avert and resolve conflict, continued

2 Reinforce African conflict mitigation and management capacity

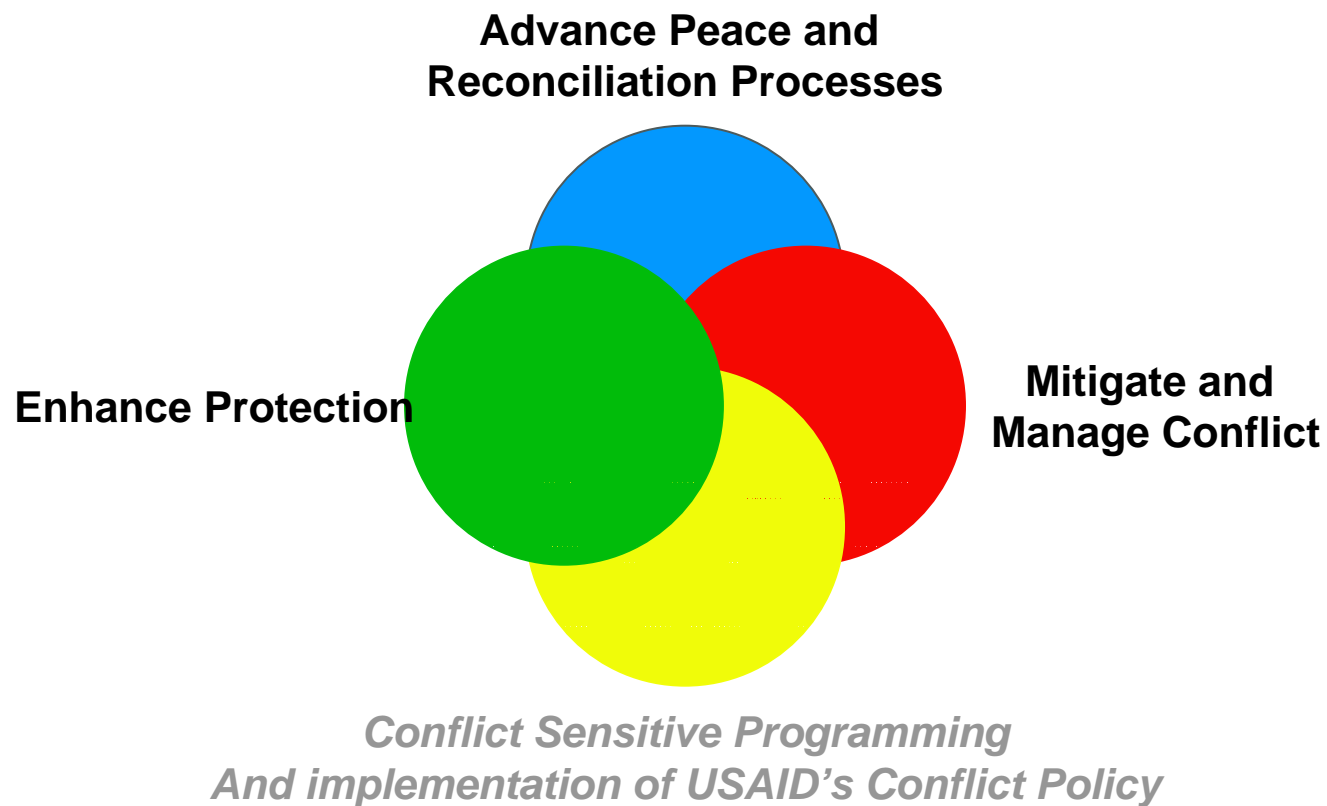
- Improve early warning and response mechanisms
- Promote data collection and analytic research to identify underlying tensions that produce conflict
- Promote policy dialogue, decision-making, and programming to identify potential conflict and effectively address tensions before they erupt into violence
- Strengthen human and institutional capacity to manage and mitigate conflict
- Increase participation in non-violent decision making

Goal One: Avert and resolve conflict, continued

3 Enhance protection of individuals from physical violence

- Human rights (GBV, VOT, TIP, WV, child abduction) monitoring, documentation, and reporting
- Develop human and institutional capacity to provide care and assistance (physical, medical, psycho-social and livelihood) to those whose rights have been abused
- Justice sector reform to end impunity (identify and prosecute perpetrators, application of laws, and enforcement of judgments) and increase access
- Training in civilian oversight of security forces and community policing to facilitate protection

Goal One: Avert and resolve conflict, continued



Goal Two: Manage Crisis and Promote Stability, Recovery and Democratic Reform

1 Reintegration of persons affected by conflict

- Build community resilience and government support to prevent displacement
- Humanitarian assistance, care and maintenance for the displaced
- Reintegration, transition (return and resettlement) and reconciliation programming for all returnees (IDPs, refugees and other crisis affected persons)
- Reintegration and reconciliation programming for ex-combatants and their host communities

Goal Two: Manage Crisis and Promote Stability, Recovery and Democratic Reform, continued

2 Increase access to essential services provided by local and national institutions

- Encourage policy and regulatory reform necessary to enable effective planning, transparent budgeting and monitoring of service delivery
- Build the capacity of local and national institutions to effectively provide essential services
- Promote community participation in service delivery
- Increase access of marginalized groups to essential services

Goal Two: Manage Crisis and Promote Stability, Recovery and Democratic Reform, continued

3 Inclusive governance advanced

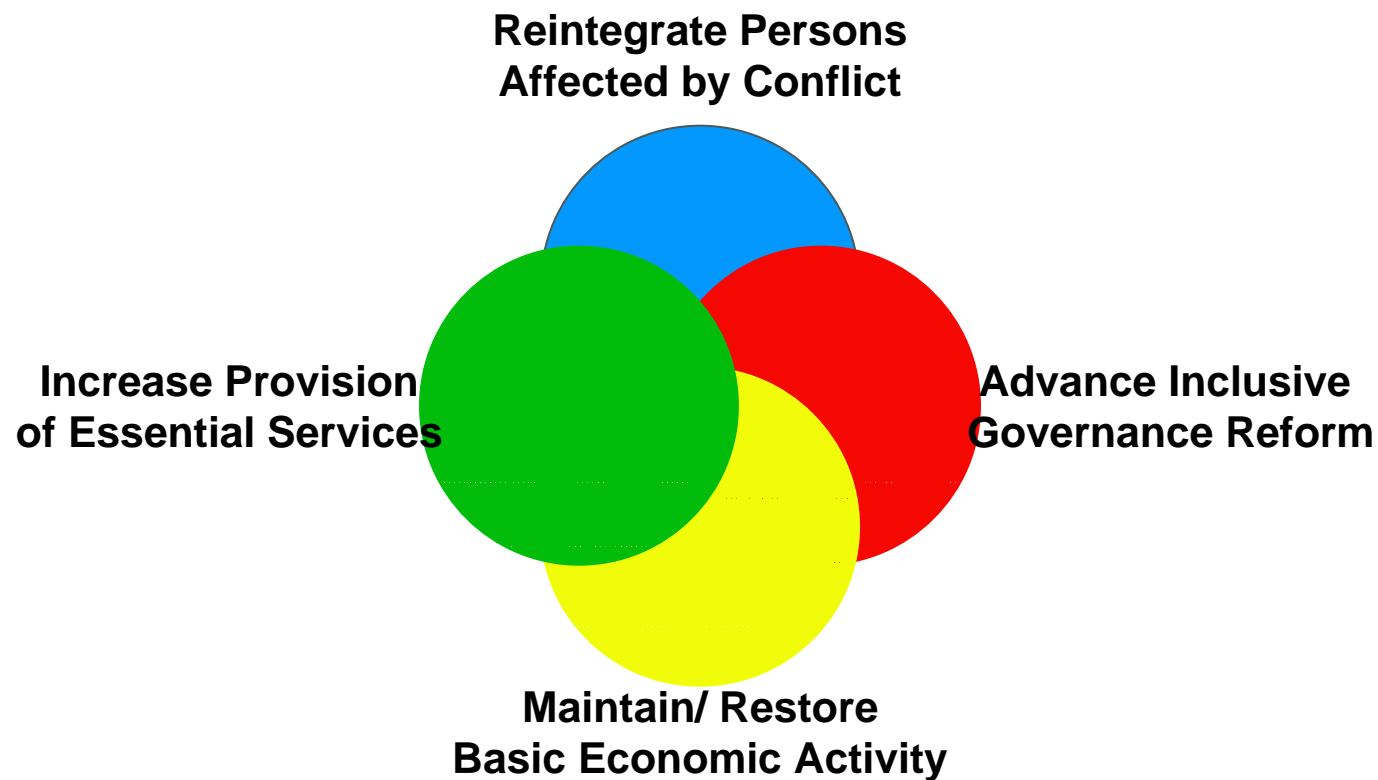
- Promote basic democratic concepts—a level political playing field, peaceful demand for reform, inclusive dialogue and the participation of disenfranchised groups
- Strengthen the health of institutions that govern political participation and competition
- Strengthen the checks and balances of government
- Reduce corruption
- Promote security sector reform
- Strengthen state and local capacity to manage crisis

Goal Two: Manage Crisis and Promote Stability, Recovery and Democratic Reform, continued

4 Restore/maintain basic economic activity and livelihoods

- Build productive safety nets to prevent asset depletion, malnutrition and withdrawal of children from education
- Diversify and develop livelihoods to increase incomes
- Develop economic infrastructure (markets, communications, transportation, roads) to lay the foundation for economic growth
- Develop private sector capacity, producer organizations, and cooperatives.

Goal Two: Manage Crisis and Promote Stability, Recovery and Democratic Reform, continued



SO 1: AVERT AND RESOLVE CONFLICT

GENDER ISSUES

BEST PRACTICES

1.1 Peace Processes Supported

Men and women have unequal access to peace dialogues, decision-making, and power to shape forums designed to avert or resolve conflict, including mobilizing constituencies for peace, negotiating peace agreements or to design, monitor and evaluate peace treaties and accords where new resource distributions, leadership roles or other social change dynamics are agreed.

Practices that build upon new and traditional roles of men and women where both groups are engaged in peace processes and resolving conflict across ethnic, class, age, and other variables

a) Constituencies for peace mobilized

Identify traditional and emerging women leaders to mobilize constituencies of all types

Rural Women's Peace Initiative Liberia, Senegal, Guinea Bissau, and Cote d'Ivoire—Strengthens women's capacity to act in conflict resolution and peace-building

b) Peace agreement negotiated

Include women stakeholders and other affected parties to conflict in informal and formal negotiations

All-Party Burundi Women's Peace Conference—At Burundi Peace Negotiations 50 Burundian women presented common vision for peace and reconciliation; 19 recommendations were included in final peace accord



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

KEY GENDER ISSUES AND BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLES

Key Gender Issues and Best Practice Examples

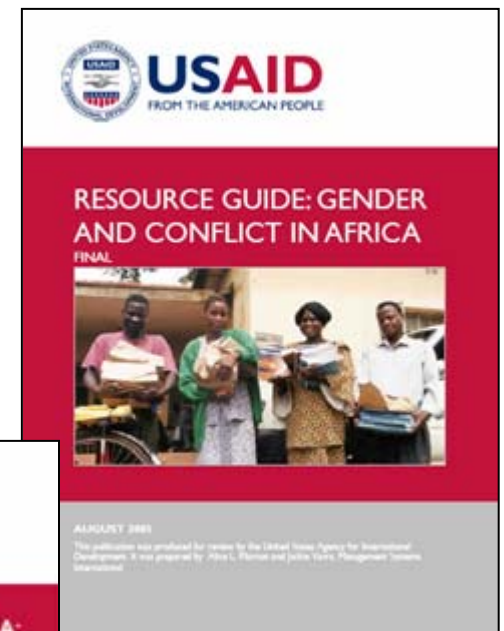
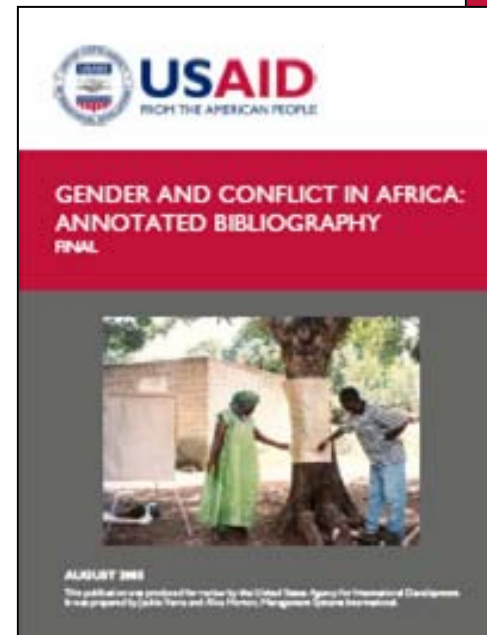
- African conflict-mitigation capacity reinforced
- People-oriented planning (UNHCR)
- Human protection enhanced
 - Trafficking of persons
 - Failure of traditional safety-nets for children and others
 - Gender-based violence prevented

Key Gender Issues and Best Practice Examples, continued

- Persons reintegrated into conflict-affected communities
 - Transitional integration implemented
 - Ex-combatants, refugees, and IDPs reintegrated
 - Conflict-affected populations included in political processes
 - Capacity to respond to specific health concerns of persons affected by conflict increased

On-Line Resources for Consultation

- Child Soldiers
- Trafficking in Persons
- Reproductive Health
- HIV/AIDS
- Gender-Based Violence
- Programming and Project Design



Africa-Based Organizations Focused on Gender and Conflict

- West African Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) – Ghana
- African Women's Development and Communications Network (FEMNET) – Kenya
- Pro-Femmes Twese Hamwe – Rwanda
- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) – Burundi and Sierra Leone
- People's Voice for Peace – Uganda



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

2005 Summer Seminar Series

Notes and other information at:

<http://www.usaid.gov/>

enter Keyword “Summer Seminars” or:

<http://www.usaid.gov/policy/cdie/>

FILL OUT YOUR EVALUATIONS, PLEASE!



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**THANK YOU for attending the
2005 Summer Seminar Series**

**Thanks to the Center for Association
Leadership, PPC, The Summer Seminar
Team, and especially our Presenters! See
the proceedings of this Knowledge for
Development activity at:**

<http://www.usaid.gov/>

Keyword: Summer Seminars